



WASH Sector Steering Committee

MoM of 28 Jan 2014, Beirut

Location	UNICEF, Clemenceau, Gefinor Center, Beirut	Time	14:00-17:00
Chair person	David Adams (dadams@unicef.org)	Notes by	Cameron Smith (csmith@int.mercycorps.org) & David Adams (dadams@unicef.org)

Agenda

- Actions from last meeting
- Develop / Improve Objectives and related Benchmarks for the Sector Strategy document
- Discussion of National WASH Assessment
- AOB

Actions from last meeting

- Minor changes that were agreed in last meeting were incorporated to draft TOR for the Steering Committee. The question was asked, however; should we reconsider in context of Generic sector TOR released on 21st Jan and the Jan 2013 Sector TOR?
 - Agreed that Alice (ACTED) will write first draft of a Sector TOR based on the Generic TOR and incorporating elements of the out-dated WASH Sector TOR and the revised Steering Committee TOR, to be completed by Monday 03/02/2014.
- Final definitions for Indicators the Activity Info site have not been agreed. Though description of activities have been incorporated in Activity Info. Some further changes may occur this week. This is going live for reporting at 31/01/2014. Definitions will have to be progressively worked on to improve reporting, as it was for 5W.
- Preliminary report of national Nutrition Assessment, which includes some WASH component, was shared. A review of this report was also shared. A meeting with OCHA on possible funding for such an assessment was positive.
- SC members invited to Trello to see if it might be useful. Trello is a free web-based application for managing and collaborating on projects and tasks using comments, attachments, votes, due dates and checklists.
 - Agreed to trial Trello for the Steering Committee.

Develop / Improve Sector Strategy Objectives and Benchmarks

Timeframe, Emergency vs Longer-Term:

Suggestions for the timeframe included a minimum of 18 months, a minimum of 2 years with a strategic long-term focus. An underlying objective of the Strategy Document (SD) should be to inform donors on the needs and direction of the Sector.

- Agreed that the timeframe for the strategy is 18-month, to be explicit in the doc.
- Agreed that there should be a Strategy review by the Sector to commence in September 2014, to be explicit in the doc.

Noted there is general consensus on requirement of Emergency, Long-Term and Preparedness aspects.

Links with other Sectors:

Discussion regarding the inclusion of Govt. strategies: General consensus that the SD should encompass long-term elements, including capacity building of Municipalities and Water Establishments (WEs), which should align with GoL National Water Strategies / Policies. This also aligns with RRP6 to include local authorities.

Objectives and Benchmarks:

- Agreed that there's no requirement to amend the overarching objective.

The group discussed applying SMART methodology to Strategic Objectives (SOs).

SMART needs to be redefined as Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-related.

	Specific	Measurable*	Achievable	Relevant	Timely
Strategic objectives	Yes	Yes, though preferred not specify but maintain general	Yes, provided funding, etc.	Yes	Period of the strategy

*Reference required to WASH Sector Standards in Technical Guidelines.

- Agreed that there are no substantive changes required to the Strategic objectives in the SD.

Coordination:

Coordination should NOT be included as a specific SO of the Sector; however, focus on coordination is required as a means to delivering the SOs and should be outlined in Section 8 – Achieving Objectives. The following points for coordination should be included: Inter-Sector coordination, particularly Education, Health and Shelter, Coordination with GoL, particularly for communal level projects (i.e. CSPs and short-medium term projects).

- Agreed to incorporate coordination under Achieving Objectives.

Standards:

The following points also agreed:

- Maintain reference to Sphere Standards as basis for WASH sector standards.
- Include references to Sphere, NWSS, Sector Standards in Tech Guides, lessons learnt document.

WASH Sector Standards – outlines the adaptation of the Sphere and other agreed standards for the sector in Lebanon. It was decided that the SD will be more abstract and the Standards document will be maintained in the Technical guidelines.

- Agreed the Sector Standards also require review/update and can be part of the review and update process for the Technical Guides.

National WASH Assessment

There is a distinct lack of an overall picture of WASH needs across Lebanon. Assessments have been conducted in different areas over different time periods, using different methods, indicators and with different objectives. There have been a couple of attempts to compile and analyse these assessments to give a comprehensive picture but to no avail. There has at the same time been an on and off discussion to undertake a national assessment but a number of factors have prevented this coming to fruition. It was also proposed that the recently completed Nutrition assessment, with a WASH component, could be used as a baseline of WASH needs. The preliminary report was reviewed and discussed during the meeting.

After discussion, the following was agreed:

- That the Nutrition Assessment is lacking in many aspects from a WASH perspective and will not suffice to provide a baseline of needs across the country.
- That a National WASH Assessment is very necessary and should be undertaken ASAP.

A couple of options on how to complete the assessment were discussed following on from the previous meeting, namely: One agency vs. consortium undertaking. David also had a brief meeting, on 27th Jan, with OCHA to discuss ERF funding possibilities. It was noted that the REACH component of ACTED submitted a proposal to conduct National survey late 2013. Timeline was a 3-month assessment. ACTED has good, recent and regional, assessment and mapping experience.

After discussion, the following was agreed:

- That one agency should undertake and manage the assessment.
- Other WASH actors could support in their areas of operation with facilitating access, providing staff, etc.
- To review and provide input to the ACTED proposal.

For the strategic planning of this exercise, two assessments were suggested; baseline and follow-up/monitoring exercise. Group agreed that first survey is a priority and monitoring/follow-up deserves planning, with details to be

hashed out at a later date. It was noted that a detailed assessment form had been developed, translated and also tested by ACTED late 2013. This formed part of the Draft Assessment Guideline. These provide a solid basis, though need to be reviewed and modified. All types of contexts where WASH is needed (i.e. IS, Collective Centres, small shelters, etc.) should be included in the assessment, as well all population groups that are affected by the crisis, including host communities.

AOB

Technical Guides:

Technical Guidance documents need updating. This is a future agenda item and may require reactivation of the TWiGs to perform this task. It was also mentioned that there is a need and interest in holding technical workshop sessions: to exchange ideas, issues and come up with best solutions.

Water Scarcity over coming summer & autumn:

Despite the potential seriousness, this is an opportunity for increasing engagement with Government agencies (MoEW, WEs, etc.) and development agencies as there likely many existing studies and past experiences to learn from and other initiatives may already be underway.

Oxfam is writing proposal for Catchment-Level study of water source reliability in the Bekaa.

Aspects of this issue could be incorporated into the WASH Sector Strategy.

Water Quality:

ACTED finding extreme levels of municipal water contamination and investigating source of contamination. This highlights requirement to work with Municipalities and WEs. ACTED reports that in many locations chlorination of public networks is not happening, despite the requirement of the WE to perform this task.

There is a need to develop clearer standards for quality testing and treatment, considering budgets, options for lab testing facilities, QA of collecting, etc. It was recommended that this be incorporated in Water Tech Guide revision and technical workshop session on Water.

Next Meeting Agenda items:

Need a policy for fuel provision to WEs: CISP currently running a pilot project and the SC will review to recommend policy.

Investigation for funding to beneficiaries for municipal subscription fees for water needs discussing.

Summary of Action Points

#	Action	By Who	By When
1	First draft of a WASH Sector TOR to be written and disseminated to the SC.	Alice (ACTED)	3 Feb
2	Check with Elias if work done on definitions of indicators for the Activity Info site.	David	29 Jan
3	Trello to be trialled by the group. Everyone to confirm successful access and to follow up with Aoife for any issues.	All	3 Feb
4	Final version of the Lebanon WASH Sector Strategy to be completed incorporating input from workshop and SC.	David	07 Feb
5	Disseminate old ACTED National Assessment proposal for review by the SC.	David	29 Jan
6	Review ACTED proposal and provide comments, suggestions.	All	3 Feb
7	Request report on effectiveness of the pilot project in South for fuel provision to boost pumping station water delivery.	David	31 Jan

Meeting Attendance:

#	Member	Present
1	ACTED, Alice Arrenberg, WASH and Shelter Programme Manager	Yes
2	WVI, Jessica Moujabber, Programme Officer	Yes
3	Solidarites International, Miguel d'Arcangues, WASH & Shelter Coordinator	Yes
4	INTERSOS, Maurizio Peselj, WASH Expert	Yes
5	UNRWA, Nicole Klaesener-Metzner, WASH Expert	
6	Mercy Corps, Cameron Smith for Lubna Siam, WASH Sector Manager	Yes
7	CISP, Silvia Beccacece, WASH PC	
8	PU-AMI, Elias E. Sader, Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator	
9	Oxfam, Rob Delaney, WASH Advisor	Yes
10	UNICEF, Olivier Thonet, WASH Chief	Yes
11	WASH Sector Lead, Samuel Gonsaga (standing)	Yes
12	WASH Sector Co-lead, David Adams (standing)	Yes

Next meeting(s):

- Agreed that regular meetings are to be 3rd Friday of every month. Ad-hoc meetings may be called to deal with urgent and specific issues.